

tion the protection of the masonic fraternity; and from this circumstance it may be assumed we derive our existence as representatives of the Ancient Chivalry of the Temple.

Objections have been raised to the new titles of "Grand Crosses" and "Commanders," as an innovation upon the simplicity of the Ancient Order, there being no such titles formerly. They have, however, the precedent belonging to the State Orders of Knighthood, and have been long used by the Scottish Templars, and were honorable distinctions amongst the Knights of Malta. These honors are to be limited and substituted for Past rank, only to be conferred by H. R. Highness the Grand Master, as special marks of his approbation for services rendered the Order.

At his installation he was pleased to add my name to that of the Royal personages and the few members of distinguished rank on whom he first conferred the title of Grand Cross. The honor I fully appreciate, not alone as such to myself, but as the highest compliment H. R. Highness could pay to the Templars of Canada through their Grand Prior.

The apron, in my opinion a most ridiculous badge for the representatives of a Military Body, is at last abolished. So far back as 1852, when I attended the Sup. G. Conclave in London, the subject was then discussed of substituting a sash round the waist, in imitation of the mystic *ceinture* or *white linen girdle* worn by the knights of old, and if I mistake not the motion was actually carried, but by some unaccountable misunderstanding, was not acted upon. The only advocates for retaining the masonic badge of the apron, were those who merely looked upon the order as a high degree of masonry, neither knowing or at all caring for its origin or history, and who considered the putting off the apron and dropping the prefix masonic as actually shutting them out from the pale of masonry.

Substituting the titles of "Marshal" and "Constable" for the modern military rank of Captain (1st and 2nd,) and 'Chaplain' for 'Prelate' is only reverting to the old nomenclature in the order. The Templars never had amongst their members devoted to the sacred offices any higher title than Chaplain, and those amongst them advanced to the rank of Bishop did not assume the title of Grand Prelate of the order of the Temple.

As we are now known under the name of the United Orders of the Temple and Malta, it becomes necessary for each Preceptory to hold a Priory of Malta. The introduction of the Malta order into that of the Templar is comparatively very modern (irrespective of the legendary amalgamation) and many errors have been disseminated with respect to it by visionary and enthusiastic masonic writers, asserting as facts, wild theories of their own relating to the supposed common origin of Freemasonry, and the old military orders of knighthood. It has been stated that our Maltese ritual was brought from the Island of Malta; this I can positively say is not the case, for in 1849 I was the first to introduce the Temple order there, and we did not work any degree of Malta. I have had for a long time in my possession, Malta Rituals said to have been used by the Templar Encampments in the last century, but I could find no trace whatever in Malta that any such rituals had belonged to the old knights or that they knew anything about our Encampments. It is from the Scottish Knights of Malta, masonic degree, our present ritual has been principally compiled.

The historical lecture introduced in the ritual is interesting and instructive, showing the origin in Palestine of the great rival Military Sister Order to the Temple, the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of